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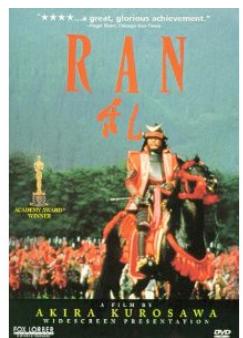
Welcome to  
Algorithms,  
Spring 2018!



## 5 Handouts Today:

- Syllabus
- Lecture notes
- HW 1
- Handout 1: Good Writing, Induction, and Greed (please read before doing HW 1)
- Blank worksheet

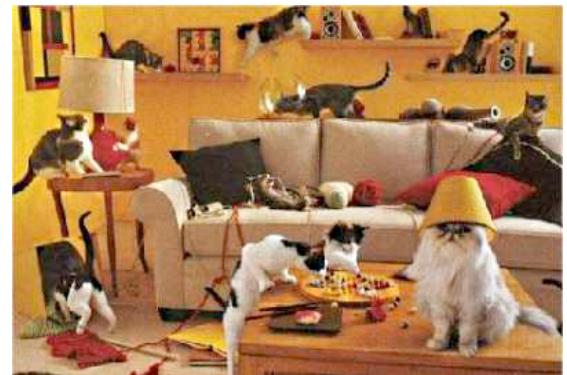
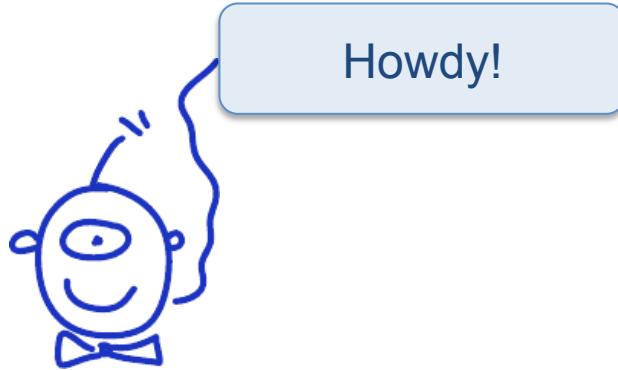
“It is a mistake to think that you can solve any major problems just with potatoes” – Douglas Adams  
“Of all the courses we’ve ever taken, this was one of them!” -Rotten Tomatoes  
“We don’t have enough words to express our feelings about this course.” – Ebert & Roeper



## Course staff:

- Professor: Ran “RON” Libeskind-Hadas
- Grutors: 16 friendly grutors! (names on syllabus)

- Aliens: 1



# Give us a “Snappy”



# On your worksheet...

- Your name
- Something that you'd like to learn about in this course
- What are your thoughts for life after college? (If it exists!)
- A random fact about you!

# Learning Objectives

- Given a challenging computational problem:
  - Design an efficient algorithm for it
  - Derive its worst-case running time
  - Prove the correctness of the algorithm
- Get comfortable using a number of major design paradigms and techniques:
  - Greed, divide-and-conquer, dynamic programming
  - Amortized analysis
  - Graph algorithms
  - NP-completeness and approximation algorithms

# Learning Objectives

I've got my eye on  
some of these  
applications!



- See some “advanced topics” to get a sense of the breadth and depth of the field
  - Parallel algorithms (the ~~future~~ present!)
  - Computational geometry (computer graphics games)
- Good writing!
  - Read Handout 1
  - A significant % of the points are for good writing

+ min is



tion

“Everything” is on Canvas!

- Syllabus
- Homework assignments
- Submission system
- Lecture notes
- Exam dates
- Discussions
- Q & A with Ran and Grutors *(instead of e-mail!)*
- Grades



Canvas is the secret to all happiness

# Please read the syllabus

In a nutshell...

- HWs (40% **100 pts/week**)
  - Typically due on Tuesdays at 11:59 PM
  - Always submit pdfs
  - First two weeks, use LaTeX (resources in Syllabus, source code provided for each problem)
  - May submit a problem 24 hours late for a 5 point deduction
  - You get 5 free late day rubles in your “account”
- Worksheets everyday in class (10% **10 homework points each!**)
- Two “midterm” exams (15% each **takehomes in lieu of assignments**)
- In-class final (20%)
- Grading on “fixed scale” (**12 points per letter grade, e.g. 88-100 is A- to A+**)

# Homework Collaboration

- Homework
  - You may talk and interact at white board with...
    - Students who are *currently* in this class
    - The grutors
    - Ran
  - You may use the book and lecture notes
  - You should **not** look for solutions...
    - On the web
    - In other books
    - From people other than those listed above
    - Anywhere else
  - Questions? Concerns? Talk to Ran!

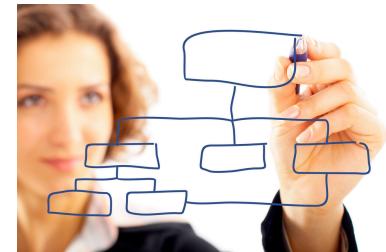
# Bonus Problems!



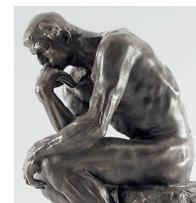
- You can pass the course without them...



- But, they are great for...
  - Learning the material more deeply



- Being intellectually challenged
- Putting some homework points in the



# Office Hours and Grutor Hours

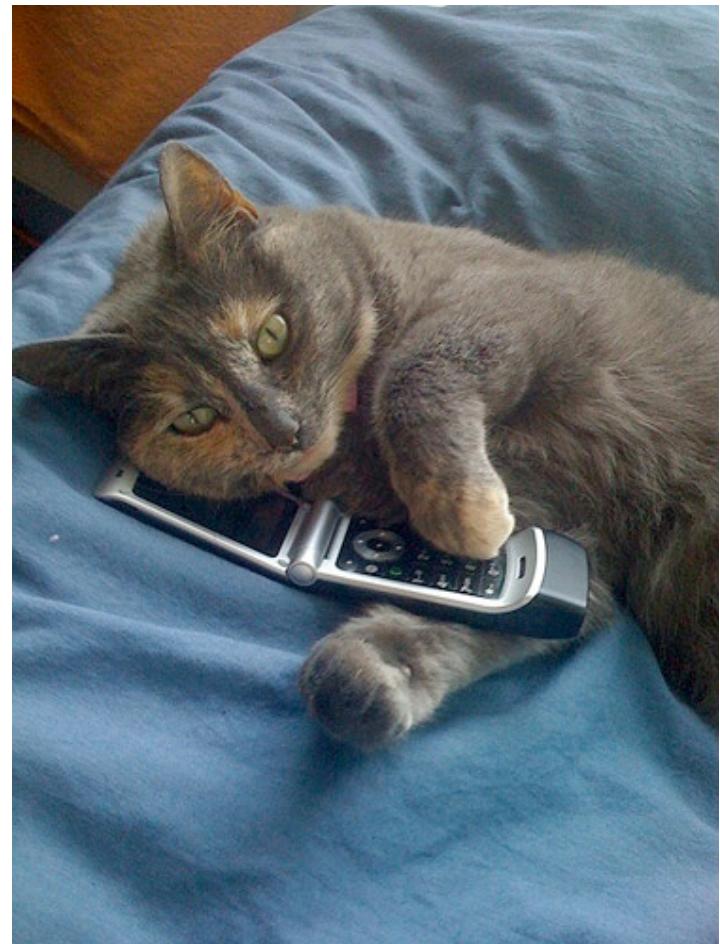
(Linked from Canvas Syllabus)

- Office hours (Olin 1253) start this Friday!
  - Mondays 4-5 PM
  - Tuesdays 11-12:30 PM (may change in February)
  - Fridays 4-5 PM
- Grutor hours (Starting this Sunday; see the link from the Syllabus on Canvas)
- Short questions/clarifications using Canvas



Office hours start on  
Friday!

# Pleze Not Use in Class...



And not this...



# A Note About Notes...

**Theorem:** One-eyed aliens are cute.

**Proof:** Fill this in!



Many slides are intentionally partially blank. It's your task to help fill them in...

# Give Me Greed, Now!\*



\* Use greed with extreme caution

# After today's class, you'll have all you need to do *all* of Homework 1!

Getting started early is always a good plan in this course!



# The Pasadena Institute of Technology (P.I.T.) Registration Problem

REM Lab

Poetry for Physicists

Blah

Advanced Blah

Applied Topology with Donuts

Algorithms

**Goal:** Choose a largest possible set  
of non-intersecting courses  
(there may be many optimal  
solutions, we just seek one!)



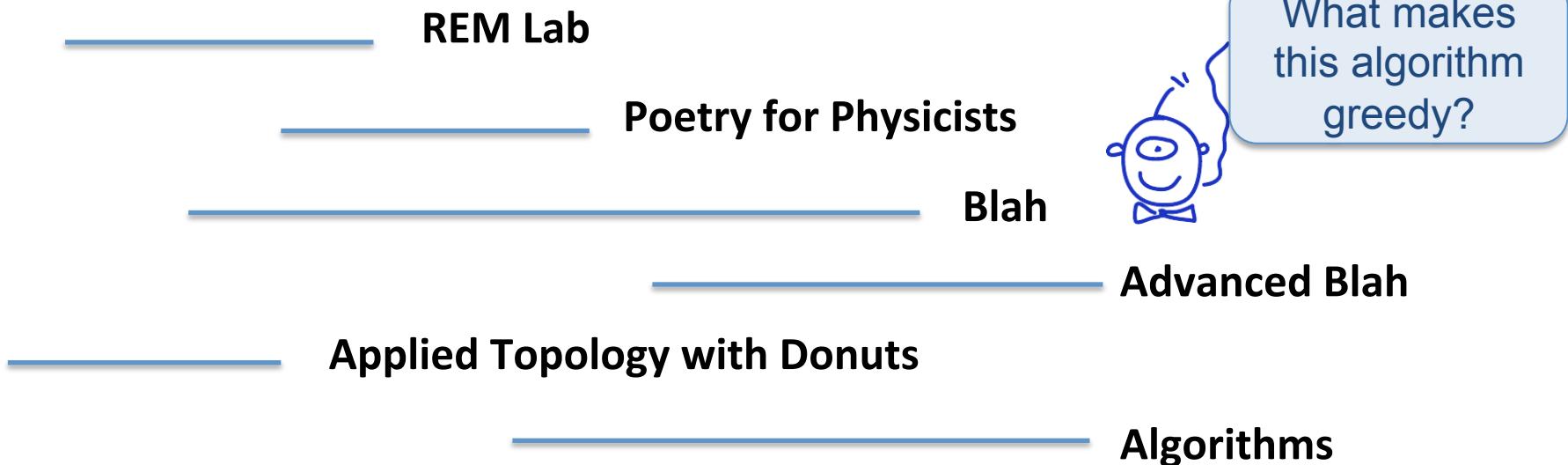
I'd take the donuts  
course if it didn't create  
a hole in my schedule!

# Prof. I. Lai's Greedy Algorithms

**Attempt 1:** Choose the shortest interval (breaking ties arbitrarily), take it, remove overlaps, recurse on remaining problem



Prof. I. Lai  
P.I.T

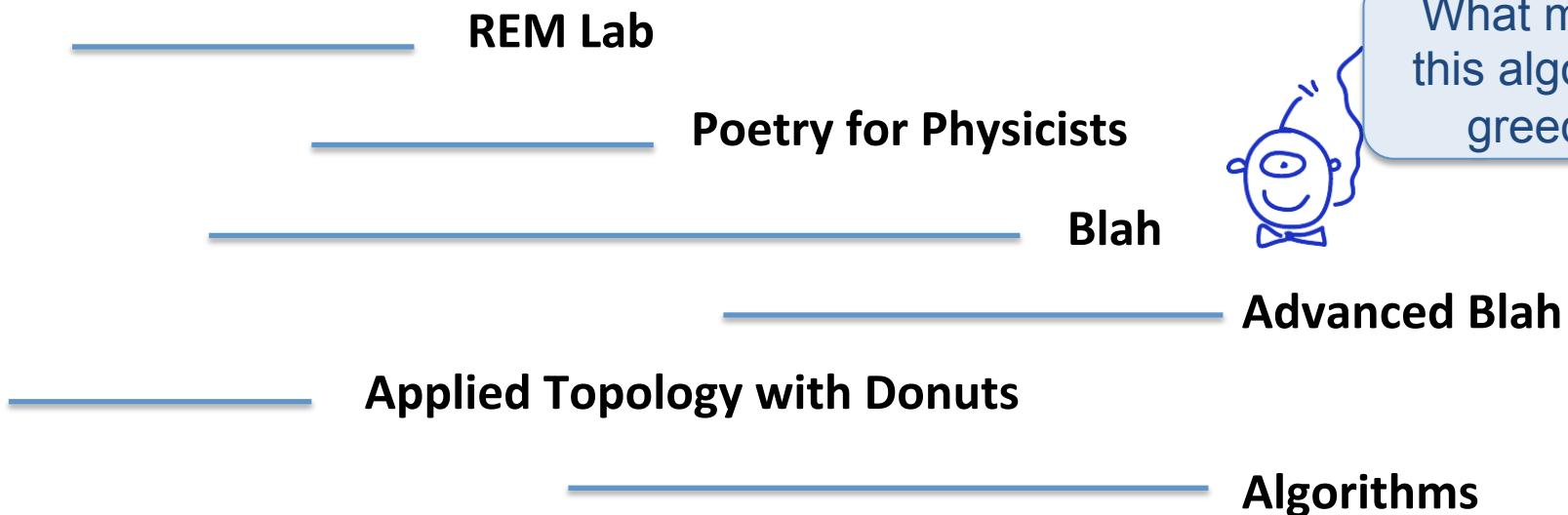


# Prof. I. Lai's Greedy Algorithms

**Attempt 2:** Choose the interval that overlaps with the fewest other intervals (breaking ties arbitrarily), take it, remove overlaps, recurse on remaining problem



Prof. I. Lai  
P.I.T

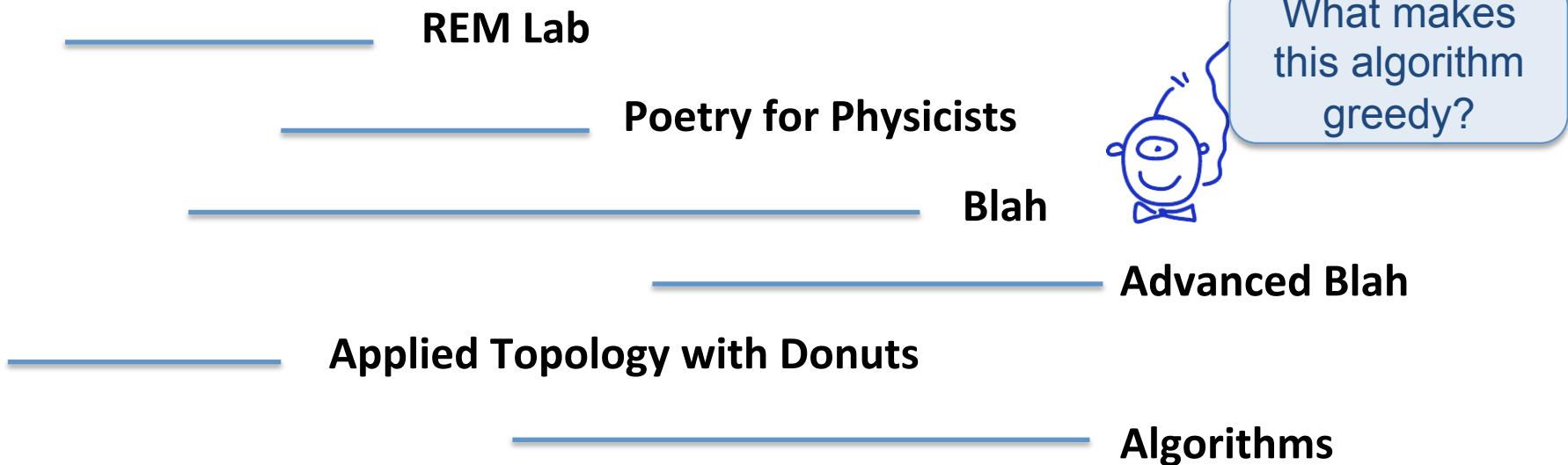


# Prof. I. Lai's Greedy Algorithms

**Attempt 3:** Choose the interval that starts the earliest (breaking ties arbitrarily), take it, remove overlaps, recurse on remaining problem



Prof. I. Lai  
P.I.T



# Prof. I. Lai's Greedy Algorithms

**Attempt 1:** Choose the shortest interval  
(breaking ties arbitrarily), take it, remove  
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Prof. I. Lai  
P.I.T

# Prof. I. Lai's Greedy Algorithms

Attempt 1: Choose the shortest interval (breaking ties arbitrarily), take it, remove overlaps, recurse on remaining problem



Prof. I. Lai  
P.I.T



# Prof. I. Lai's Greedy Algorithms

**Attempt 2:** Choose the interval that overlaps with the fewest other intervals (breaking ties arbitrarily), take it, remove overlaps, recurse on remaining problem



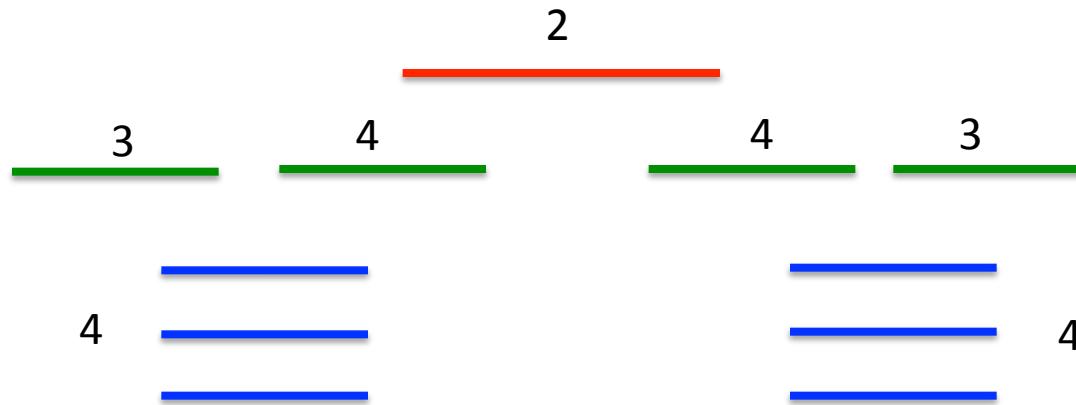
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Prof. I. Lai  
P.I.T



# A Correct Greedy Algorithm

## “Earliest Ending Time (EET)”

- Sort the intervals by *ending time*
- Greedily take the interval that ends first (**use it!**)
- Remove the intervals that overlap with the one just selected
- Recurse on remaining problem



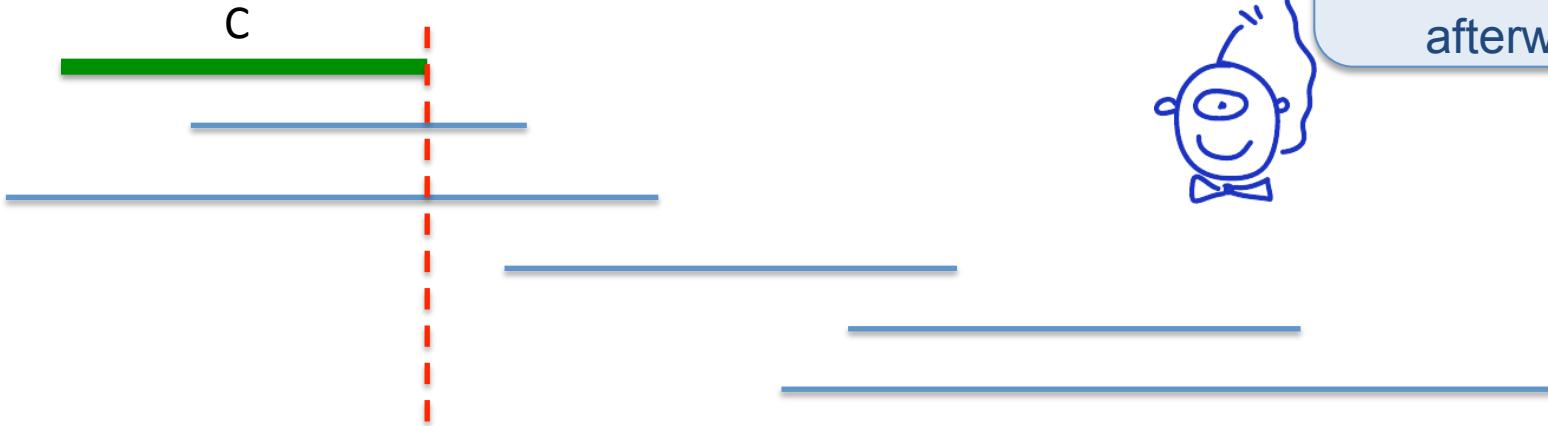
Let's see the big idea first, and the formal proof afterwards...

Check out this 3-frame movie!

# A Correct Greedy Algorithm

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# A Correct Greedy Algorithm

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Let's see the big idea first, and the formal proof afterwards...

# Proving that the “EET Greedy Algorithm” is Correct: Safety and Induction!

**Claim:** The EET greedy algorithm finds a solution with the largest number of non-overlapping intervals.

**Proof:** Strong induction on the number of intervals,  $n$ .

**Basis:**  $n = 0$



There may  
be multiple  
optimal  
solutions.  
We just seek  
one!

**Induction hypothesis:** Assume the claim is true for *any* set with *any* number of intervals between 0 and  $n$ .

**Induction Step:** Consider any set of  $n+1$  intervals. We wish to show that the EET greedy algorithm finds a solution with the largest number of non-overlapping intervals.

# Finishing up the proof...

The complete proof is written up formally in Handout 1



# Making...



# Change

```
>>> change(42, [25, 10, 5, 1])  
5
```

```
>>> change(42, [10, 5, 1])  
6
```

## Pre-1971 British System:

1, 3, 6, 12, 24, 30, 60, 240

```
>>> change(48, [1, 3, 6, 12, 24, 30, 60, 240])  
2
```

but greedy algorithm uses...



In this problem,  
we're allowed  
to use a coin  
denomination  
as many times  
as we want!

# Making Change!

Return the least number of coins required to make up the given amount

```
>>> change(42, [1, 5, 10, 25, 50])
```

```
change(amount, coins[1,...,i] )
if amount == 0: return 0
elif i == 0: return Infinity
elif coins[i] > amount:
    return change(amount, coins[1,...,i-1])
else:
    useIt = 1 + change(amount-coins[i],
                        coins[1,...,i])
    loseIt = change(amount, coins[1,...,i-1])
return min(useIt, loseIt)
```



This is NOT a greedy algorithm because it's not using a simple (aka "greedy") rule to choose a coin and then move on!

# Warning: Greed is generally bad!



# But it works for some cases...

Consecutive powers of b

Consider denominations of type  $b^0, b^1, \dots, b^k$  for some positive integer  $b > 1$  and  $k \geq 0$ .

**change(amount) # greedy version for coins 1, b,  $b^2, \dots, b^k$**

- Choose the largest coin  $b^i$  that doesn't exceed amount
- Recurse on `change(amount -  $b^i$ )`

# The Greedy Algorithm...

Consider denominations of type  $b^0, b^1, \dots, b^k$  for some positive integer  $b > 1$  and  $k \geq 0$ .

Observation 0: Geometric series:  $b^0 + \dots + b^j = \dots$

Observation 1: It is never optimal to use  $b$  or more coins of value  $b^j$  if  $j < k$ .

Observation 2: Using at most  $(b-1)$  coins of each type  $b^0, \dots, b^{i-1}$  we can make up at most...

Big idea  
first...



# Proving Correctness of the Greedy Algorithms

Proof by strong induction on amount, n

(not on our coin set  $1, b, b^2, \dots, b^k$ )

Basis:  $n = 0$

**Induction hypothesis:** Assume that the greedy algorithm uses the optimal number of coins for any amount from 0 to n.

**Induction step:** Consider an amount  $n+1$ . The greedy algorithm uses the largest coin  $b^i$  ( $i$  between 0 and  $k$ ) that doesn't exceed  $n+1$ . We **first** claim that this choice is **safe** in the sense that there exists an optimal solution that uses a  $b^i$  coin.

Consider an optimal solution  $S$  (a multiset of coins) for amount  $n+1$ .

Observation 1: It is never optimal to use  $b$  or more coins of value  $b^j$  if  $j < k$ .

Observation 2: Using at most  $(b-1)$  coins of each type  $b^0, \dots, b^{i-1}$  we can make up at most  $b^i - 1$

# For what denominations does the greedy algorithm give optimal solutions?

## Optimal Bounds for the Change-Making Problem

Dexter Kozen<sup>1</sup> and Shmuel Zaks<sup>2</sup>

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[kozen@cs.cornell.edu](mailto:kozen@cs.cornell.edu)

<sup>2</sup> Computer Science Department, Technion  
Haifa, Israel  
[zaks@cs.technion.ac.il](mailto:zaks@cs.technion.ac.il)

**Abstract.** The *change-making problem* is the problem of representing a given value with the fewest coins possible. We investigate the problem of determining whether the greedy algorithm produces an optimal representation of all amounts for a given set of coin denominations

